

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /100 W
-----121042 060852Z /10

R 060834Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0995
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16065

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, JA, CH
SUBJECT: PLA DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF TO VISIT JAPAN

1. JAPANESE PRESS REPORTED SEPTEMBER 3 THAT PLA DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF CHANG TSAI-CHIEN WOULD PAY UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO JAPAN SEPTEMBER 8-13. PRESS NOTED CHANG WAS FIRST HIGH-RANKING CHINESE MILITARY OFFICIAL TO VISIT JAPAN, AND THAT VISIT MIGHT STRONGLY IRRITATE SOVIET UNION.

2. JDA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS HISAHIKO OKAZAKI TOLD EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 5 THAT JAPANESE MILATT IN PEKING HAD RECEIVED PRC REQUEST AUGUST 29 TO ALLOW CHANG TO TRANSIT JAPAN ON HIS WAY TO MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONIES. OKAZAKI SAID GOJ HAD ASKED CHINESE TO TRANSMIT
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WRITTEN REQUEST THROUGH ITS EMBASSY IN TOKYO. PRC EMBASSY DID SO SEPTEMBER 4, DESCRIBING CHANG'S VISIT AS "STOPOVER," WITHOUT ANY FURTHER DETAILS AS TO CHANG'S PLANS IN TOKYO. MOFA PROMPTLY APPROVED REQUEST. OKAZAKI SAID HE WAS STILL WAITING FOR PRC EMBASSY TO INFORM HIM OF CHANG'S PLANS, BUT ASSUMED THAT THERE WOULD BE SEVERAL DINNERS AND OTHER SOCIAL EVENTS FOR CHANG.

3. IN CALL ON MOFA CHINA DIVISION BY EMBOFF AND VISITING
INR ANALYST SEPTEMBER 5, WORKING LEVEL OFFICERS WERE WARY
OF CHARACTERIZING VISIT AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN UNOFFICIAL
STOPOVER. THEY EMPHASIZED THAT GOJ HOPED TO AVOID
INTERPRETATION OF VISIT AS ANTI-SOVIET GESTURE, ALTHOUGH
THEY RECOGNIZED SOVIETS WOULD BE QUICK TO SO CHARACTERIZE
IT. (A MOSCOW RADIO BROADCAST, MONITORED IN TOKYO
SEPTEMBER 5, SAID CHANG'S VISIT COULD PAVE WAY FOR "FURTHER
MATERIALIZING A JAPAN-CHINA MILITARY ALLIANCE IN FUTURE
UNDER WING OF U.S.") OFFICIALS SAID FONMIN SONODA HAD
INSTRUCTED MOFA TO TAKE SPECIAL CARE OF CHANG. NOT ALL
MOFA CHINA SPECIALISTS ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT VISIT, HOW-
EVER. ONE, IN SEPARATE TALK WITH EMBOFF, SAID HE FELT
DECISION TO ALLOW PLA OFFICIAL TO VISIT JAPAN SO SOON AFTER
PFT SIGNING WAS MISTAKE IN THAT IT WAS UNNECESSARILY
PROVOCATIVE TO SOVIETS. MANSFIELD

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